

IDAHO ARTHRITIS PROGRAM

Idaho Arthritis Program Goals:

The goals of the Idaho Arthritis Program are to:

- Reduce the burden of arthritis in Idaho.
- Increase awareness of arthritis as a public health issue.
- Increase awareness of the importance of early diagnosis, appropriate treatment, and self-management strategies among people with or affected by arthritis.

Program Overview

The Idaho Arthritis Program was established in October of 1999 with funding provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Bureau of Health Promotion, Division of Health, within the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, serves in the leadership role for the coordination and implementation of the program. An **Idaho Arthritis Action Plan** has been created by the Idaho Arthritis Advisory Council and the Idaho Arthritis Program. The goals and objectives that have been selected reflect the goals of CDC Arthritis Program, the National Arthritis Action Plan and the needs of Idaho. Goals of the **National Arthritis Action Plan** are to:

- Increase public awareness of arthritis as the leading cause of disability and an important public health problem.
- Prevent arthritis whenever possible.
- Promote early diagnosis and appropriate management for people with arthritis to ensure them the maximum number of years of healthy life.
- Minimize preventable pain and disability due to arthritis.
- Support people with arthritis in developing and accessing the resources they need to cope with their disease.
- Ensure that people with arthritis receive the family, peer, and community support they need.

Idaho's Focus Areas

Partnership

Establish networks of organizations, healthcare providers, individuals and others with interest in reducing the burden of arthritis and improving the lives of Idahoans who have or are affected by arthritis.

Communication and Education

Provide health communication messages and education to people with or affected by arthritis, healthcare providers and the general public.

Programs, Policies and Systems

Identify and implement programs, policies, and health infrastructure systems that are needed to operate and manage effective prevention programs to impact arthritis in Idaho.

Surveillance and Epidemiology

Gather, analyze and report arthritis-related data in Idaho.

Evaluation

Demonstrate program effectiveness, and direct or refine planning efforts.